Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended)   A method of making block error rate measurements in a layered protocol communications system, comprising the steps of:

opening and maintaining an information block flow by sending repeated message blocks which are defined at a selected layer in the protocol stack below the topmost layer; and

monitoring ack/nack messages sent in response to the message blocks to determine whether the message blocks have been correctly transported.

2. (Original)   The method of claim 1, wherein the message blocks have a predetermined characteristic which causes the message blocks to be discarded upon processing at the selected protocol layer in a communications unit receiving the message blocks.

3. (Original)   The method of claim 1, wherein the communications system is a general packet radio service (GPRS) and the selected protocol layer is a GPRS mobility management layer.

4. (Original)   The method of claim 3, wherein the repeated message blocks are GMM_INFORMATION message blocks.

5. (Original)   The method of claim 4, wherein the predetermined characteristic comprises absence from a message block of any information elements other than a message header.

6. (Original)   The method of claim 1, wherein the communications system is a general packet radio service (GPRS) and the selected protocol layer is a GPRS logical link control layer.

7. (Original)   The method of claim 6, wherein the repeated message blocks are GRR_DATA_REQ message blocks.

8. (Original)   The method of claim 7, wherein the predetermined characteristic comprises inclusion in a message block of an invalid frame check sequence.